

George Lardner, Newsroom
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

2/24/92

Dear George,

Up what has become my usual too early, for which and for other reasons I see a neurologist with a speciality in sleep disorders on my third! medical appointment of the day, I drafted a letter to Gates and then was lucky enough for the local paper to come just as I went out to mail the books and pick the Post up. I'm pretty sure I'll be able to copy the story on Howard Donahue's coming book on the JFK assassination and to mail that and this this afternoon. What I am not sure of is that I'll be able to read and correct and write you about my letter to Gates. If I am able to read and correct it and do not have time to write you about it, please regard it as confidential for the time being. I'll then write you later about it. If it is not enclosed you'll get it when I can write you a bit about it.

The AP story on Donahue's book may have been routed to you and you may or may not have kept it if it was. In short, his theory is impossible and I told him this more than once, at least once in some detail when he and his wife were here. The first time was when the Sunday Sun, also without checking, published it years ago. I have that and my letter, I'm sure.

Like all the others who pretend to solve the assassination with theories they dream up, Donahue ignores what disproves his, the existing photographic evidence, among other things.

Unless St. Martin's is running a calculated risk, publishing this book without the necessary checking is wildly crazy. As is Donahue because of what I wrote and told him, that his theory is proven to be impossible by the existing evidence to which I referred him.

I'd thought that the last time I'd persuaded him because he has been silent about it for so long.

It is true that on one occasion he did ~~fire~~ fire a different Mannlicher-Carcano three times within ~~7~~ 5.6 seconds. It is not true that he then duplicated the shooting attributed to Oswald. If I can find them I have the results of that test for CBS News. Bob Richter leaked them to Sylvia Meagher, who gave me a copy.

I'm not taking the time this early morning when I'm about to leave for my walking therapy to check my files to get the name of the Secret Service agent he says fired the ~~BAR~~ BAR but without being a lawyer I think that man has a case and might sue. Not only cannot it be proven that this happened, leave alone was possible, common sense alone says that in less than 5.6 second he could have gotten that BAR up from the floor of the followup car and then fired it -without being seen by the many onlookers. It was

some time later that he had that weapon up, with no indication of ever using it. It is my recollection that ~~he~~ this was about the time the motorcade disappeared beneath the Triple Underpass.

And, of course, nobody heard that alleged shot or saw it being aimed.

I want to keep it confidential at least for now but I've had several recent phone-calls from a retired Secret Service agent who was then on the White House detail. He has not been able to come here because of illness but he is well now and he is writing me about what I cannot confirm and believe is unlikely if not impossible, that they knew about Oswald before the assassination. I think one of his details is impossible or close to it, that they had that backyard picture of Oswald on the bulletin board before the assassination. Then it disappeared, he says, and others denied to him that they's seen it.

One former White House detail agent, perhaps not assigned there but I believe he was, Fox, now dead, did leak the black-and-white autopsy pictures.

When he first showed them to the man to whom he leaked them he had in the same folder a photocopy of a picture of Hitler's will!

It appears that Stone has opened publishing floodgates.

If you can send me a copy of the former counsels' statement before you can go over your notes I'd appreciate it because when I have time I'm writing about that.

In a 1/5/92 article in the Inquirer Specter said that people should read the Warren report to "accept the extensive factual analysis and sound conclusions" in it.

I liked that invitation. I'm accepting it.

Best,

George, I've time for a hasty explanation of my letter to Gates and some of the ellipsis in it. At least for now this is for your information only. My purposes do not include publicity. While I have no reason to believe that the CIA is any more intent on openness under Gates than in the past, I also believe that I owe it a reasonable opportunity to think about it and respond.

-At the beginning of Watergate a German publisher asked me to do a book, which I started to do, changed his mind, then a second publisher did the same thing, asked and then decided against it. Having started I continued working and I did develop information that Bernstein and Woodward did not publish if they'd learned it. This includes information on E. Howard Hunt. I think there is a prima facie case of his preventing publication I had arranged for through the man then my agent, Max Wilkinson. I found that Hunt used Wilkinson's office as his New York address. That may be the office from which he had a tie-line to his Washington office. There is more on Hunt of that period.

In those days the FBI was intercepting overseas mail for the CIA. Mine was delayed and some never reached me. What ^{did not reach me in under} ~~was not placed in the mail~~ is correspondence from a German publisher who accepted Whitewash. I later learned that when I did not respond to the letters that never reached me they sent the manuscript back. It never reached me.

For a period of about two months all my mail to my London agent was delayed. I have a telegram from him telling me that it then all reached him at one time.

There were at least two instances of intrusion into my being published in England, the second while the contract was being drafted. While I can't pin this on the CIA it is more suspect than any other agency. The first instance was the killing of the book to Collins, which had gone for it in 1965, by an old-time British spook, then Warden of All Souls at Oxford, John Sparrow.

The ribbon copy of Oswald in New Orleans was intercepted and delayed for some time in reaching me from my then New York agent. The post office explanation for the delay and the absence of any wrapper was ridiculous.

What called itself "the Public Affairs staff" and had no visible connection with the CIA monitored what I and others were saying about the JFK assassination. As - now recall Harold ~~Her~~ Ober was in charge, He with his staff were eased out in the ~~the~~ wake of Watergate and as I recall were taken in by NSA. I have bills rendered for the service, checks in payment, envelopes in which they were mailed, and carbon copies of what I'd said. Sure the CIA can say it wanted to know what was being said but that is domestic intelligence, then prohibited for it.

Before it was known that Praeger was a CIA publisher one of his people was quite impressed by Whitewash, forecast their first print would be 50,000 copies, then a best-seller indication, but Praeger personally rejected the book. He was out of town when I

submitted the manuscript and when it was returned to me I learned that he had done the rejecting, personally.

When there was attention to Hunt and his novels it became public that Wilkinson was both his agent and his friend.

The firm was Littauer & Wilkinson. There then was a Littauer CIA foundation. I do not know whether these are one of more Littauers or whether there is any other kind of connection but the name is not all that common.

While I have no proof I do have reason to believe that the CIA was engaged in ~~xxx~~ arranging for non-publication as well as what it has admitted, for publication. With Hunt part of it.

There is probably more. This is off the top of the head. What is solid and beyond question is that the Office of Security had at least two files on me, lied about them and withheld them. There is reason to believe that at least one related to publishing.

So, while I expect nothing in response to my letter, I want to wait and see,

Harold